

Video 11: Covenant with Abram

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"Fear not Abram. I am your Shield. Your reward shall be very great."

Who is speaking to Abram?

Abram knows. It's the voice of the Lord. But he doesn't understand what the Lord means. He says, "But Lord, what are you giving me? I still don't have a child. Will everything that's mine, be for my servant?"

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"No," says the Lord, "You will really get a son. Just come outside! Look at the sky. Do you see the stars? Can you count them for me?"

Oh, have you ever tried to count the stars? It's impossible, right? There are sooo many!

Then the Lord says to Abram, "I will give you as many children as you can see stars here in the sky. One generation after another generation. They all will be your people."

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God continues to speak and He says, "I am the Lord. I brought you from your own country to this land. This land will be yours."

Then Abram asks, "But how do I know that this land will all be mine?"

God replies, "Take a 3 year old cow and a 3 year old goat and sheep. Take 2 birds, a dove and a young pigeon."

Abram does what God asked him to do.

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Abram has to cut the animals into 2 pieces and arrange them in 2 rows. But the birds he doesn't cut. Then... big birds come! They want to eat of the carcasses of animals. But Abram chases them away!

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When it gets dark Abram falls asleep. In a dream the Lord reveals to him what will happen in the future. The Lord explains that the family of Abram will become slaves in Egypt. That period will be for 400 years before the Lord will rescue them and bring them back to the promised country of Abram.

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When the sun has set, and it is dark... Look, a smoking firepot and a flaming torch passes between these pieces. On that day, the Lord makes a covenant with Abram.

What does that mean, a covenant? Well, it's like a promise between two parties. They agree: I will do this, but then you will do that.

Now the Lord makes a covenant with Abram. He promises him that he shall become a father of a big nation! At the same time, He wants Abram to trust and obey him.

That's what the Lord also wants from you, that you trust and obey Him, and that you believe whatever He has said in His word.

That's why it's so important to know the Bible stories.

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Abram believes in the Lord. He trusts that the Lord will do what He has promised. But in the meantime, year after year, he is growing older. Also Sarai, his wife, is like a granny. Do you see? Will it still be possible for them to get a child? Can God really do these kind of things?